

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 04452 011015Z

15

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EUR-25 PC-15 INSE-00 INR-10 IO-13

MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-20 SCS-03 DODE-00 RSR-01 EB-11

PPT-02 /149 W

----- 107216

P 010930Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2734

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 4452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TS

SUBJECT: CHOLERA IN TUNISIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY. EMBASSY RECEIVED PERSISTENT RUMORS WEEK OF JULY 22 THAT NUMBER OF CASES OF CHOLERA HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA. ESTIMATES OF CASES AND RESULTING DEATHS HAVE VARIED. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED CHOLERA CASES IN A SPEECH AND MINIMIZED OUTBREAK. EMBASSY INFORMATION INDICATES LARGER NUMBER OF DEATHS AND CASES FOR ALL OF TUNISIA. HOWEVER, LATEST INFORMATION INDICATES DECLINE IN NUMBERS AND VIRULENCE OF DISEASE HAS BEGUN. MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE TAKEN PROPER REQUIRED PRECAUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 26, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ANNOUNCED THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL CHOLERA CASES IN TUNISIA. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CAME ON HEELS OF REPEATED RUMORS RECEIVED BY THE MISSION CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF CHOLERA, MAINLY IN SOUTHERN TUNISIA. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA STRESSED THE LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO CONTROL ITS SPREAD AND THE RELATIVELY UNCRITICAL THREAT PRESENTED BY CHOLERA IN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 04452 011015Z

THE MODERN DAY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CLASSIFIED. INDEPENDENT SOURCES IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT 300-400 CASES, PRIMARILY IN THE TOZEUR-GAFSA AND GABES AREA, HAVE BEEN REPORTED. SOURCES REPORT AS HIGH AS 47 DEATHS FROM THE DISEASE. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF 30 CASES WITH 1 DEATH FROM CHOLERA IN TUNIS AND 10 CASES OF EUROPEANS HAVING THE DISEASE. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS SUPPOSEDLY TAKEN RAPID AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE DISEASE. REPORTEDLY OVER 180,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN VACCINATED. TWO VACCINATION CENTERS HAVE BEEN SET UP IN TUNIS AREA AT LE BARDO. TUNISIAN NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 1 REPORT ABOUT HALF NUMBER CASES STATED ABOVE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE REPORTED THAT 5 SWEDES RETURNING FROM THE SOUSSE AREA WERE HOSPITALIZED AND THAT TWO OF THEM WERE CONFIRMED CASES OF CHOLERA. LE MONDE ALSO HAD AN ARTICLE ON THE OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN TUNISIA. MOST COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY MOVED TO REQUIRE A CHOLERA VACCINATION FOR ENTRY FROM TUNISIA. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW SERIOUS AN EFFECT THIS WILL HAVE ON THE ALREADY LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE OF THE TOURIST SECTOR THIS YEAR.

5. ALL AMERICAN AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE AVAILABILITY OF CHOLERA VACCINATIONS IN THE EMBASSY MEDICAL UNIT AND THERE ARE NO REPORTED CASES OF CHOLERA AMONG MISSION OR PEACE CORPS PERSONNEL EMBASSY HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS CAUTIONING ON TRAVEL TO SOUTHERN TUNISIA FOR THE SUMMER AND WARNING AGAINST CONSUMPTION OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND NEED TO BOIL WATER.

6. EMBASSY HAS RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THE OUTBREAK IS ON DECLINE AND CASES SHOULD BE LESS VIRULENT IN LAST STAGES OF OUTBREAK.

7. INS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER REQUIRING CHOLERA VACCINATIONS FOR TRAVELERS COMING FROM OR TRANSITTING TUNISIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 04452 011015Z

SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHOLERA, VACCINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS04452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730863/aaaabuph.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHOLERA IN TUNISIA
TAGS: SWEL, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005